United Nations A/AC.109/2018/L.3

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
1 June 2018

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 72/91 of 7 December 2017, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of the timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Mindful of the non-fulfilment of the obligation to transmit information on some Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Recalling its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which will end in two and a half years, and stressing in that regard the need to make real progress towards its full implementation,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government

[1] A/73/64

Please recycle

in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to respect their obligations under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with regard to each Territory on the agenda of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. *Also requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

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General Assembly

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1 June 2018

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2018 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 72/110 of 7 December 2017,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options for self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of the visiting missions of the Special Committee in contributing substantially to the dissemination of information on decolonization,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/73/23), chap. III.

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Recognizing that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, must play a bigger role, in accordance with resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and encourages the continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, published in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, and updated for the United Nations website on decolonization;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television, the Internet and social media, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/AC.109/2018/L.5

General Assembly

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1 June 2018

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Having considered the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[1]

Recalling paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 72/111 of 7 December 2017, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, were an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, and requested the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year,

[1] See General Assembly resolution 65/119.

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Recalling with satisfaction the work of the Special Committee visiting mission to New Caledonia that took place from 10 to 15 March 2014, and taking note of its report,[2]

Noting the invitation extended by the Premier of Montserrat to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Recalling the two successful missions that were conducted to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,[3]

Recalling also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in having facilitated the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006 at the request of the territorial Government,[4]

Recalling further the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa and of Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[5] with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[1]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the work of the Special Committee visiting mission to New Caledonia that took place from 12 to 19 March 2018;

3. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee, in collaboration with members of the Bureau, to develop, in a timely manner, for consideration and adoption by the Special Committee, a plan on a case-by-case basis for conducting visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;[6]

4. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate with the United Nations, if they have not yet done so, or to continue to cooperate by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

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[2] A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1.

[3] See A/AC.109/2006/20 and A/AC.109/2007/19.

[4] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

[5] General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

[6] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas); a dispute also exists between the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over Gibraltar.

United Nations

A/AC.109/2018/L.6

General Assembly

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12 June 2018

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2018 relating to the item,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity, including the use of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military activity, that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/73/23), chap. VI.

Please recycle

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 regarding the sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and environmental degradation,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the number and scale of hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and their devastating impact in 2017 in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean Sea, resulting in the loss of life and negative economic, social and environmental consequences for their vulnerable societies and hampering the achievement of sustainable development in these Territories, in particular in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as in Puerto Rico, whose situation is addressed in the Special Committee,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and with respect to the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and resolution 72/218 of 20 December 2017 on disaster risk reduction,

Conscious that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and with other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic or other activities, including the use of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military activity, that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in this regard reminds the administering Powers of their responsibility and accountability vis-à-vis any detriment to the interests of the peoples of those Territories, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Once again urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to provide all the necessary assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events in order to alleviate the humanitarian needs in the affected communities, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction;

12. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to provide assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and to formulate appropriate programmes to support emergency response and recovery and rebuilding efforts, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this matter;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

14. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

15. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, in particular the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

United Nations A/AC.109/2018/L.7

General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Decision of the Special Committee of 19 June 2017 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Considering that more than half of the period 2011–2020, proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/119, of 10 December 2010, as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, has been reached,

Bearing in mind the 36 resolutions and decisions adopted since 1972 by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2018 marks the 120th anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that, despite the rejection expressed by the majority of the Puerto Rican people on 6 November 2012 of their current status of political subordination, the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States have failed to set in motion a decolonization process that beings in Puerto Rico, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico,

Noting that the consultation undertaken by the Government of Puerto Rico on 11 June 2017, in which, as reported by the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission, less than 23 per cent of voters participated, was not designed to promote decolonization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting with concern that the present political subordination of the Puerto Rican people impedes sovereign decision-making regarding the humanitarian crisis caused by the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which have aggravated the already serious economic and social problems, resulting in increased levels of poverty in Puerto Rico from 45 per cent to around 60 per cent of the population, which has caused mass migration and seriously affected efforts to achieve sustainable economic development,

Also noting with concern that the United States Congress, invoking thereby its plenary powers under the Territorial Clause of the United States Constitution, imposed in June 2016 a Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (Fiscal Supervisory Board), appointed by the President of the United States to exercise plenary control powers over the elected executive and legislative officials of the Government of Puerto Rico in all issues relating to fiscal, economic and budgetary matters, as well as all that concerns the restructuring of the public debt of Puerto Rico, all of which aggravates the colonial situation in the country,

Noting that the Supreme Court of the United States, in conformity with the request made by the Department of Justice, decided in June 2016 in the case of *Puerto Rico v. Sánchez Valle*, that the original and ultimate source of governmental power in Puerto Rico lies in the United States Congress, and that any limited concession of self-government to Puerto Rico may be unilaterally revoked by the United States Congress,

Stressing again the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting the declarations by the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Council of the Socialist International, which reiterate the inalienable rights of the people of Puerto Rico in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and which also reiterate the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and their support for the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee,

Noting also the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would enable the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico to begin, and aware of the principle that any initiative seeking a solution to the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico, and of the fact that, to date, several draft laws in favour of convening a constitutional assembly on status have been presented in Puerto Rico,

Further noting the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against supporters of Puerto Rican independence, that have come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Aware that Vieques Island (Puerto Rico) was used for over 60 years by the United States Marine Corps and naval forces to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Noting the consensus among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the need to clean up, decontaminate and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the lands previously used for military exercises and installations, and use them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico, as well as on the slowness of the process thus far,

Also noting the constant complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning as a clean-up method, thereby exacerbating the existing health and pollution problems and endangering civilian lives,

Further noting that in the final document of the XVII Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Margarita Island (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), from 17 to 18 September 2016, and other meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation, and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and accounts representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico, and that the people of Puerto Rico constitutes a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own distinct national identity;

2. *Calls again* upon the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will enable the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico, and to take decisions, in a sovereign manner, to address their urgent economic and social needs, including unemployment, marginalization, insolvency and poverty, and the problems related to education and health, which have been aggravated by the ravages of Hurricanes Irma and Maria;

3. *Notes with concern* that, by virtue of the decision of the United States Congress, under the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) which creates the Financial Oversight and Management Board, the already weakened area in which the prevailing regime of political and economic subordination in Puerto Rico operates is reduced any further;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Again notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all sectors of Puerto Rican public opinion, including a constitutional assembly on status with a basis in the decolonization alternatives recognized in international law, and aware of the principle that any initiative seeking a solution to the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

[1] A/AC.109/2018/L.13.

6. *Expresses serious concern* over the actions carried out against supporters of Puerto Rican independence, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigor and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively and in all its aspects, and to decide on this issue as soon as possible;

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the legitimate right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of all lands occupied by its military forces in Puerto Rico territory, in particular installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba, to the people of Puerto Rico, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to worsen the serious consequences of its military activity in order to protect the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in compliance with its resolution of 19 June 2017;[1]

10. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report in 2018 on the implementation of the present resolution, including new developments relevant to a process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV);

11. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.